

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed January 26, 2001, the Examiner rejected the pending 33 claims. More specifically, the Examiner rejected Claims 11, 30 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention; the Examiner rejected Claims 28-31 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yahia; the Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 5 and 7-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Halttunen et al. in view of Humphreys et al.; the Examiner rejected Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Halttunen et al. in view of Humphreys et al. as applied to Claim 1 in further view of Chen; the Examiner rejected Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Halttunen et al. in view of Humphreys et al. as applied to Claim 5 in further view of Horimoto; the Examiner rejected Claims 19, 24, 25 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Halttunen et al. in view of Humphreys et al. and Hartmann et al.; the Examiner rejected Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Halttunen et al. in view of Humphreys et al. and Hartmann et al. as applied to Claim 19 in further view of Yahia; the Examiner rejected Claims 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Halttunen et al. in view of Humphreys et al., Hartmann et al. and Yahia as applied to Claims 19 and 20 in further view of Lanni; the Examiner rejected Claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Halttunen et al. in view of Humphreys et al. and Hartmann et al. as applied to Claim 19 in further view of Tomura et al.; the Examiner rejected Claims 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yahia in view of Horimoto; and, the Examiner rejected Claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yahia in view of Stamegna.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 11, 30 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, these claims have been amended to address and overcome this rejection.

Claims 1-3, 5, and 7-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Halttunen et al. in view of Humphreys et al. Independent Claims 1 and 5, as presently postured, overcome this rejection. Halttunen et al. discloses a phone carrier (101) and a body (102) which move vertically in relation to each other to connect and disconnect, although the two pieces never completely separate. The carrier has an opening (110) along its base which allows a connector (109) affixed to the body to pass through the opening in the carrier and connect to the phone (111). Humphreys et al. discloses a single piece telephone holder (100) which includes a pair of vertically aligned guides (110a, 110b) and latches (112a, 112b). Like Halttunen et al., a phone is seated within the holder by vertical movement of the phone relative to the holder. The phone must necessarily include complementary slots (404a, 404b) which receive the latches and guide members of the holder. When the phone is completely nested within the holder, the latches (112a, 112b) are seated within slots (402a, 402b). The latch members rotate about pivots (206b) and the phone is released from the holder by inwardly pressing tabs (116a, 116b).

With respect to Claim 1, neither Halttunen et al. nor Humphreys et al. discloses a pocket member and separate interface module which are either separate or mechanically and electrically substantially simultaneously interconnected. Indeed, Humphreys et al. discloses a single element telephone holder which does not include any electrical connectors. Moreover, Halttunen et al., while disclosing an electrical connector (109) in the body (102), does not disclose a separate electrical connector as part of the carrier (101). Thus, while the carrier and body disclosed in Halttunen et al.

are mechanically interconnected, there is no disclosure or suggestion of any electrical interconnection between the carrier and body, let alone one which occurs substantially simultaneous with the mechanical connection. Thus, independent Claim 1, as well as dependent Claims 2 and 3, as presently presented, are patentable over Halttunen et al. in view of Humphreys et al.

The disclosure of Chen is also of no assistance. Unlike Applicants' claimed invention, Chen requires two separate and distinct connections to electrically and mechanically connect the flexible supporting member (3) with the mobile phone affixing seat (4). Specifically, the affixing seat (4) is mechanically connected to the flexible member (3) by the wedge plates (334) and wedge slots (335) of the engaging face (333). Electrical connection is then achieved by plugging power terminal (332) into socket (411) of the affixing seat (4). Clearly, Chen does not disclose or suggest substantially simultaneous electrical or mechanical interconnection of the pocket member and interface module.

With respect to Claim 5, neither Halttunen et al. nor Humphreys et al. discloses a pocket member having an electrical connector interfacing with the electronics of a portable phone and an interface module having an electrical connector which interfaces with an electrical connector of the pocket member. For this reason alone, independent Claim 5, as well as dependent Claims 6-18, are patentably distinct over Halttunen et al. in view of Humphreys et al. However, Claim 5 further requires two sets of independent latching mechanisms: a first which is part of the pocket member and interconnects the portable phone to the pocket member, and a second which is part of the interface module and interconnects the interface module to the pocket member. As Humphreys et al. only discloses a single phone holder, the latching mechanism disclosed does not disclose or

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suggest Applicants' claimed latching mechanisms. In addition, the latching mechanism disclosed in Halttunen et al. is formed as part of the body (102) and connects directly to the phone, passing through an opening (114) in the carrier (101). As can be seen, Halttunen et al. not only fails to disclose separate and independent latching mechanisms, but, instead, discloses a single latching mechanism. If anything, the latching mechanism disclosed by Halttunen et al. teaches away from Applicants' claimed invention.

For many of the reasons stated with respect to Claims 1 and 5, independent Claim 19 is patentable over Halttunen et al. in view of Humphreys et al. Halttunen et al. and Humphreys et al. do not disclose a pocket member having first and second connectors and an interface module having a third connector. As previously stated, Halttunen et al. discloses a single connector which passes through an opening in the carrier for interconnection with electronic contacts on a portable phone. Moreover, Hartmann et al. does not remedy this deficiency. Thus, for this reason alone, Claim 19, as well as dependent Claims 20-27, are patentable over the references cited by the Examiner. However, Claim 19 further requires that one of the connectors which is part of the pocket member be movable in two dimensions. None of the references identified by the Examiner disclose or suggest this recited feature. Accordingly, Claim 19, as well as its dependent claims, is in condition for allowance.

Claim 28 has been cancelled and dependent Claims 29-33 have been amended to now be dependent upon Claim 5. Thus, for the reasons previously stated regarding Claim 5, dependent Claims 29-33 are in condition for allowance.

New Claims 34 and 35 recite further inventive features which define patentable subject matter over the references cited by the Examiner. In particular, Claim 34 recites that the pocket member and interface module are interconnected by relative movement of the two components in a direction parallel to the third axis. In the frame of reference identified in the Halittunen et al. reference, that direction is horizontal rather than vertical. Moreover, the phone is positioned in the pocket member by movement parallel to the first axis (i.e. vertical as defined by Halittunen et al.). Thus, the subject matter of Claims 34 and 35 is believed patentable over the references of record.

New Claims 36-43 and 49 also recite inventive features which define patentable subject matter over the references cited by the Examiner. In particular, independent Claims 36, 40 and 49 require that the pocket member and interface module be completely separable to allow a single interface module to mate with different pocket members. This further allows a single interface module to be used with a plurality of different electronic devices. Thus, the subject matter of Claims 36-43 and 49 is believed patentable over the references of record.

Finally, new Claims 44-48 are believed patentable over the references of record. Independent Claim 44 recites novel features of Applicants' latching mechanism for interconnecting the pocket member to the interface module. Unlike Claim 5, however, Claim 44 permits the latching members to be disposed in either the pocket member or the interface module.

Because of the changes made to independent Claims 1, 5 and 19, as well as the recited features of new Claims 34-49, Applicants believe there is no need to address the other references of record. Applicants believe that none of the other references of record disclose or suggest at least the features of Claims 1, 5, 19, 34, 36, 40, 44 and 49 as presently pending in the application.

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Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version With Markings to Show Changes Made.**"

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) An adaptor for hands-free operation of a portable phone, comprising:

an interchangeable [a] pocket member having a receiving section and a mounting section, said receiving section adapted to receive a portable phone, said pocket member also having a latching mechanism to retain said portable phone in said receiving section, [and] 5 a first connector interfacing with the electronics of the portable phone, and a second connector interfacing with the electronics of an interface module;

an interface module having a receiving section configured to mate with said mounting section of said pocket member, a latching mechanism to retain said pocket member in said receiving section and a connector interfacing with [the] said second connector of said pocket 10 member,

wherein said interchangeable pocket member is received and removed from said receiving section of said interface module by movement of said pocket member in a substantially single dimension, and continued movement of said pocket member toward said 15 interface module in said substantially single dimension mechanically and electronically interconnects said pocket member and said interface module.

2. (Amended) The adaptor of Claim 1, wherein said pocket member and said interface module include complementary registration members for aligning said mounting section of said pocket member with said receiving section of said interface module.

3. (Amended) The adaptor of Claim 1, further comprising a latching mechanism which secures said pocket member to said interface module and which is activated by movement of said pocket member relative to said interface module[in a substantially single dimension].

4. (Cancel) The adaptor of Claim 3, wherein said pocket member and said interface module are mechanically and electrically substantially simultaneously interconnected.

5. (Amended) An adaptor for hands-free operation of a portable phone, comprising:

a pocket member having a receiving section and a mounting section, said receiving section disposed on the front of said pocket member and adapted to receive a portable phone,
5 a first latching mechanism disposed within said pocket member to secure the portable phone
within said receiving section, said mounting section disposed on the back of said pocket
member and having a plurality of apertures for engagement with second latching mechanism
in an interface module, a first connector interfacing with the electronics of the interface
module, [said pocket member also having a latching mechanism to retain said portable phone
10 in said receiving section,] and a second connector interfacing with the electronics of the
portable phone; [and]

an interface module having a receiving section disposed on the front of said interface
module and configured to mate with said mounting section of said pocket member, a second
latching mechanism independent of said first latching mechanism to retain said pocket

member in said receiving section and [a connector interfacing with the connector of said pocket, said latching mechanism] movable between a first position in which the pocket member is engaged by said latching mechanism, and a second position in which said pocket member is not engaged by said latching mechanism and comprising a plurality of latch members disposed for alignment with said apertures of said mounting section of said pocket member when said pocket member is mated with said interface module, and a connector interfacing with said first connector of said pocket member;

5 wherein when said mounting section of said pocket member is seated within said receiving section of said interface module said latch members extend through said apertures and move from said first position to said second position to secure said interface module to said pocket member.

10 6. The adaptor of Claim 5, further comprising a memory device within said pocket member for recording voice input.

7. The interface module of Claim 5, further comprising a spring member for biasing said latching mechanism toward said first position.

8. The interface module of Claim 5, further comprising a release mechanism for holding said latching mechanism in said second position.

9. (Amended) The interface module of Claim 8, further comprising an engagement member for engaging said release mechanism and retaining said latching mechanism in said second [first] position.

10. The interface module of Claim 5, further comprising a release mechanism for moving said latching mechanism from said first position to said second position.

11. (Amended) The interface module of Claim 9, wherein said [further comprising a second] release mechanism comprises a [for moving said] release tab and a [into engagement with said] shelf member.

12. The adaptor of Claim 5, wherein said pocket member and said interface module include complementary registration members for aligning said mounting section of said pocket member within said receiving section of said interface module.

13. (Amended) The adaptor of Claim 5, wherein said latching mechanism includes at least one latch tab which is disposed within said interface module when said latching mechanism is in the first position and which engages said pocket member when said latching mechanism is in the second position.

14. The adaptor of Claim 13, wherein said latching mechanism comprises a plurality of latch tabs and at least one latch tab is positionally offset from another latch tab.

15. The adaptor of Claim 14, wherein said plurality of latch tabs are configured to overcome manufacturing tolerances and mechanically secure said pocket member to said interface module.

16. The adaptor of Claim 5, wherein said pocket member connects with said interface module by a limited, one-dimensional movement of either said pocket member or said interface module relative to the other.

17. The adaptor of Claim 5, wherein said latching mechanism precludes rotational engagement or disengagement of said pocket member and said interface module, thereby protecting the electrical connection between said pocket member and said interface module.

18. (Amended) The adaptor of Claim 8, wherein said latching mechanism is resilient such that said pocket member can be removed from said interface module without activation of said release mechanism and said latching mechanism will still function to latch said pocket member to said interface module.

19. (Amended) An adaptor for hands-free operation of a portable electronic device with electronics for voice and/or data communications within a vehicle, comprising:

a pocket member having a receiving section and a mounting section, said receiving section adapted to receive said portable electronic device, said pocket member also having a latching mechanism to retain said portable electronic device in said receiving section, and a first connector interfacing with the electronics of the portable electronic device, and a second connector moveable in two dimensions and interfacing with the electronics of the interface module; and,

an interface module mounted to said vehicle, said interface module having a receiving section configured to mate with said mounting section of said pocket member, a latching mechanism to retain said pocket member in said receiving section, and a connector electronically interfacing with said second [the] connector of said pocket member[,] and with systems resident within the vehicle;

wherein when a portable electronic device is secured to said pocket member said first connector is moveable to facilitate interconnection with the personal electronic device and to facilitate interconnection with said second connector when said pocket member is secured to said interface module.

20. The adaptor of Claim 19, wherein the portable electronic device can receive power from the power system of the vehicle for purposes of operating the portable electronic device or charging a battery within the portable electronic device.

21. The adaptor of Claim 19, further including ventilation means associated with at least said interface module for allowing air flow in and out of said interface module.

22. The adaptor of Claim 21, wherein said ventilation means includes air vents disposed in the body of said interface module.

23. The adaptor of Claim 21, wherein said latching member includes a latch release member disposed proximate the external surface of said interface module and said ventilation means includes an air passage [adjacent] integral to said latch release member.

24. The adaptor of Claim 19, wherein said portable electronic device includes a portable phone.

25. (Cancel) The adaptor of Claim 19, wherein said connector interfacing with the electronics of said pocket may move in two dimensions to assist the electrical connection between said pocket member and said interface module.

26. The adaptor of Claim 19, wherein said mounting section of said pocket member and said receiving section of said interface module align the electrical connectors that provide electrical connection between said pocket member and said interface module.

27. The adaptor of Claim 19, wherein said receiving section of said interface module includes a raised portion which interfaces with said pocket member to facilitate alignment between said pocket member and said interface module and to control activation of said latching mechanism of said interface module.

28. (Cancel) A system for enhancing the functionality of a portable electronic device, comprising:

an interface module adapted to interface with the electronics of the portable electronic device, said interface module connected to a power source for providing power to the portable electronic device and said interface module further including a connection to an audio output and an audio input device for hands-free operation of the portable electronic device.

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29. (Amended) The system of Claim 1[28], wherein said interface module further includes a memory device for receiving and storing data input.

30. (Amended) The system of Claim 1[28], wherein said pocket member further includes a memory device for receiving and storing data input.

31. (Amended) The system of Claim 30[28], wherein said data input can be in the form of an analog signal, a digital signal or sound waves.

32. (Amended) The system of Claim 1[28], wherein said interface module is disposed within a vehicle and interconnects the portable electronic device to the audio system of the vehicle to provide enhanced audio capabilities to the user.

33. (Amended) The system of Claim 1[28], wherein said interface module is disposed within a vehicle and interconnects the portable electronic device to a microphone.

34. (New) An adaptor for hands-free operation of a portable phone, comprising:
a pocket member having a height that defines a first axis, a width that defines a second axis and a depth that defines a third axis with each of said three axes being perpendicular to the other two axes, said pocket member including a receiving section and
5 a mounting section, said receiving section adapted to receive a portable phone, said pocket member also having a latching mechanism to retain the portable phone in said receiving section, a first connector interfacing with the electronics of the interface module and a second connector interfacing with the electronics of the portable phone;

an interface module, separate from said pocket member and having a receiving section configured to mate with said mounting section of said pocket member upon movement of said pocket member in a direction substantially parallel to said third axis, a latching mechanism, independent of said latching mechanism of said pocket member, to retain said pocket member in said receiving section and a connector interfacing with said first connector of said pocket member,

wherein the portable phone is seated within said receiving section of said pocket member by movement of the portable phone in at least in a direction substantially parallel

to said first axis and said pocket member is received and removed from said receiving section of said interface module by movement of said pocket member in a direction substantially parallel to said third axis.

35. (New) The adapter of claim 34, wherein said latching mechanism of said interface module moves between a first position wherein said pocket member is not secured to said interface module and a second position in which said pocket member is secured to said interface module and the direction of movement of said latching mechanism is in a direction substantially parallel to said second axis.

5 36. (New) A system of interchangeable adaptors for hands-free operation of a portable phone, comprising:

10 a plurality of pocket members each having a receiving section and a mounting section, said receiving section adapted to receive a portable phone of a particular configuration, said pocket member also having a latching mechanism to retain the portable phone in said receiving section, a first connector interfacing with the electronics of the portable phone, and a second connector interfacing with the electronics of an interface module;

15 an interface module having a receiving section configured to mate with said mounting section of said pocket member, a latching mechanism to retain said pocket member in said receiving section and a connector interfacing with said second connector of said pocket member;

wherein said pocket members are removed from said interface module such that portable phones having different configurations interface with a single interface module.

37. (New) The system of Claim 36 wherein said pocket members are received and removed from said receiving section of said interface module by movement of said pocket member in a substantially single dimension, and continued movement of said pocket member toward said interface module in said substantially single dimension mechanically and electronically interconnects said pocket member and said interface module.

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38. (New) The adaptor of Claim 36, wherein said pocket member and said interface module include complementary registration members for aligning said mounting section of said pocket member with said receiving section of said interface module.

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39. (New) The adaptor of Claim 36, further comprising a latching mechanism which secures said pocket member to said interface module and which is activated by movement of said pocket member relative to said interface module.

40. (New) A system of interchangeable adaptors for use with a variety of personal electronic devices, said system comprising:

a plurality of pocket members, each having a receiving section and a mounting section, said receiving section adapted to receive personal electronic devices of a particular configuration; said pocket members also having a latching mechanism to retain said particular personal electronic device in said receiving section, and a connector interfacing with the electronics of said particular personal electronic device;

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an interface module having a receiving section configured to mate with said mounting section of said pocket member, a latching mechanism to retain said pocket member in said receiving section and an electronic connector interfacing with the connector of said pocket member;

5 wherein said pocket members are removable from said interface module such that personal electronic devices having different configurations interface with a single interface module.

41. (New) The system of Claim 40, wherein said personal electronic devices comprise one or more of the group comprising portable phones, portable computers, personal data assistants and wireless data terminals.

42. (New) The adaptor of Claim 40, wherein said pocket member and said interface module include complementary registration members for aligning said mounting section of said pocket member with said receiving section of said interface module.

43. (New) The adaptor of Claim 40, further comprising a latching mechanism which secures said pocket member to said interface module and which is activated by movement of said pocket member relative to said interface module.

44. (New) An adaptor for hands-free operation of a portable phone, comprising:
a pocket member having a receiving section and a mounting section, said mounting section disposed on the back of said pocket member, said receiving section disposed on the front of said pocket member and adapted to receive a portable phone, a first latching mechanism disposed within said pocket member to secure the portable phone within said

receiving section, a first connector interfacing with the electronics of the portable phone and
a second connector interfacing with the electronics of an interface module;

an interface module having a receiving section disposed on the front of said interface
module and configured to mate with said mounting section of said pocket member, and a
5 connector interfacing with said second connector of said pocket member;

a second latching mechanism independent of said first latching mechanism and
movable between a first position in which said pocket member and said interface module are
disconnected and a second position in which said pocket member and said interface module
are engaged by said latching mechanism, said second latching mechanism comprising a
10 plurality of latch members;

wherein when said mounting section of said pocket member is seated within said
receiving section of said interface module said latch members move from said first position
to said second position to secure said interface module to said pocket member.

45. (New) The adaptor of Claim 44, wherein said second latching mechanism is
disposed in said interface module.

46. (New) The adaptor of Claim 44, wherein said second latching mechanism is
disposed in said pocket member.

47. (New) The adaptor of Claim 45, further comprising a plurality of apertures
disposed in said pocket member, and when said second latching mechanism moves from said
first position to said second position, said latch members extend through said apertures and
said pocket member is secured to said interface module.

48. (New) The adaptor of Claim 46, further comprising a plurality of apertures disposed in said interface module, and when said second latching mechanism moves from said first position to said second position, said latch members extend through said apertures and said pocket member is secured to said interface module.

49. (New) An adaptor for hands-free operation of a portable phone, comprising:
a pocket member having a receiving section and a mounting section, said receiving section adapted to receive a portable phone, said pocket member also having a latching mechanism to retain said portable phone in said receiving section, a first connector interfacing with the electronics of the portable phone and a second connector interfacing with the electronics of an interface module;

an interface module having a receiving section configured to mate with said mounting section of said pocket member, a latching mechanism to retain said pocket member in said receiving section and a connector interfacing with said second connector of said pocket member,

wherein said pocket member is removable from said receiving section of said interface module allowing a second pocket member containing a second portable phone to mate with said interface module by movement of said pocket member in a substantially single dimension.